

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05308 110657Z

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ACTION AID-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, KU
SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:
KUWAIT NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY--PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

1. WITH DEPARTURE FROM KUWAIT OF ALL BUT ONE MEMBER AID TEAM,
WE WISH TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF TEAM'S EFFORT HERE.
I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH WASHINGTON'S QUICK AND POSITIVE
RESPONSE, AND VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH MCVY AND OTHER
MEMBERS AID TEAM. NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY (NHA) DIRECTOR
GENERAL DAKHEEL IS ALSO VERY HAPPY WITH RESULTS OF AID
EXERCISE. CLEAREST EVIDENCE OF THIS, APART FROM HIS STATEMENTS
TO US AS WELL AS TO SER/H DEPUTY DIRECTOR GARDNER, HAS BEEN
HIS REQUEST TO HAVE WARNER AND SUNDERLAND RETURN TO KUWAIT EARLY
NEXT YEAR TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK.

2. BELIEVE AID TEAM SUCCEEDED IN DETERMINING PROPER ORGAN-
IZATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR NHA AND IN IDENTIFYING KEY ISSUES THE
NEW ORGANIZATION WILL HAVE TO FACE. DAKHEEL BELIEVES HIS TWO
MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITIES WILL BE TO DO GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL
WORK THAT WILL EMPLOY IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES THAT WILL BE NEW IN
KUWAIT AND TO DEVELOP A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN PLANNING CONSTRUCTION.
HE WANTS SUNDERLAND'S AND WARNER'S HELP IN DEVELOPING THESE
IDEAS, WHICH MCVY AND GARDNER WILL DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL
WHEN THEY RETURN TO WASHINGTON. IN GENERAL TERMS, DAKHEEL WILL
NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO STAFF HIS ORGANIZATION AND
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05308 110657Z

HE WILL NEED TO HAVE CERTAIN BASIC STUDIES DONE ON SPECIFIC

IMPORTANT AREAS AFFECTING THE WORK OF THE NHA.

3. AS OF NOW IT APPEARS THAT DAKHEEL WILL WANT TO CONTINUE A RELATIONSHIP WITH AID. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHAT THE EXACT DIMENSIONS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL BE. OVERALL COSTS COULD BE A FACTOR. DAKHEEL TOLD US THAT HE WILL LOOK TO AID FOR HELP WITH CERTAIN SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS. ON LONGER TERM MATTERS HE WILL FIRST HAVE TO SURVEY WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN KUWAIT ITSELF. WE DOUBT THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO FIND THE PEOPLE HE NEEDS IN KUWAIT, AND HE MAY HAVE TO GO TO OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCES. HE INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, SHOULD THE NHA REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM AID, THAT AID PROVIDE CHOICES FROM WHICH GOK COULD MAKE INDIVIDUAL SELECTIONS THAT IT FINDS MOST SUITABLE.

4. ON THE KUWAIT SIDE, THE MATTER IS LIKELY TO COME TO A HEAD EARLY NEXT YEAR AFTER THE GOK HAS HAD TIME TO REVIEW AID'S FINAL REPORT. MEANWHILE I UNDERSTAND GARDNER AND MCVORY WILL BE REVIEWING WHAT AID CAN DO IN WASHINGTON. WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO BEING INFORMED IN THE NEAR FUTURE ABOUT WHAT PROPOSALS AID WILL BE ABLE TO PUT BEFORE THE NHA WITH RESPECT TO LONG TERM RESIDENT ADVISORS HERE AND THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE STUDIES AND OTHER BACKUP SERVICES THAT THE NHA MAY REQUEST.

STOLTZFUS

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